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PRISON DISCIPLINE.

A Paper read before the Medical Society of London by Dr. FORBES WINSLOW, March 22, 1851

DR. W. commenced by observing, that the great problems of crime and prison discipline were occupying much public and legislative attention. They were themes which kings, eminent statesmen, renowned philanthropists, and great philosophers—men whose names shed an unfading lustre on the epoch in which they flourished, have not thought unworthy of their study and speculation. He (Dr. Winslow) thought these subjects had a special and peculiar claim upon the members of a liberal and enlightened profession. As citizens of the State, the members of their profession, in common with every other thinking and educated section of the community, were much interested in the political, social and moral condition of the people. But, apart altogether from their position as citizens, from their education, habits of thought, and specialty of instruction—as philosophers, trained by education to a course of rigid induction and patient reflection—as metaphysicians, conversant with the healthy and morbid phenomena of the human mind—as physiologists, fully competent to appreciate the condition of man, not merely as a material organization, but a complex organism, combining in mysterious union matter and spirit, and adapted for high and noble purposes : were they not, he asked, better fitted than any other class, to grapple with the abstruse points involved in a successful elucidation of the question under discussion? They were to consider man in his social character, surrounded by good and evil influences, urging him on in a career either of virtue or vice ; they had to view their fellow-creatures, not only in their physical aspect, but in their mental and moral relationship to society ; to trace the first impulses to crime, the first yearnings towards vice ; to well weigh the effect of certain organizations, certain physical and moral agents, upon the mind, in originating, sustaining and directing criminal and vicious inclinations ; and subsequently, it was their duty to estimate the amount of human suffering compatible with the due maintenance of the mental and physical health. Were they not (Dr. Winslow asked) entitled to be consulted in matters so grave and important? The medical profession should show to the executive of this country a willingness and competency to enter the arena and to discuss with the statesman and political economist the subject of prison discipline. Crime

is said truly to have its primary root in the natural corruption of the human heart, and without divine agency vain, indeed, would be all human efforts to eradicate the first great cause of evil. It was, however, within the scope of human power to remove temptation to crime, to discourage its commission by judicious punishment, to attack its sources and bulwarks, and by reformatory discipline and religious instruction to open a road to those higher and holier influences which can alone change the heart, and assure the permanence of morality. On the point of statistics it was difficult to give any accurate information. The extent of the moral disease could not be estimated. Its magnitude defied all the efforts of the statistician. It was generally maintained that only a fractional portion of the offences committed were brought to justice, and that a large amount of concealed and unpunished offences eluded the hands of justice. After dwelling upon this point, Dr. Winslow observed, that, taking the last ten years, the following was the number of "committals" and "summary convictions":—committals, 306,900; summary convictions, 597,600. To show the amount of depraving, demoralizing, criminal, and vicious influences at work in the metropolis alone, Dr. Winslow observed that the subjoined statement had been drawn up from official documents, by persons whose veracity could be relied upon:—children trained to crime, 16,000; receivers of stolen goods, 5000; gamblers by profession, 15,000; beggars, 25,000; thieves, &c., 50,000; drunkards, 30,000; habitual gin-drinkers, 180,000; persons subsisting on profligacy, 150,000. To give some idea of the importance of the subject, Dr. Winslow stated that Mr. Neison, the actuary, had calculated, supposing the ratio of crime as it existed in 1843 to extend over the period, that in 1893, 1,473,840 males above 12 years (being about one fourth of the male population at that age), will have been in prison at some time during the forty years. Dr. Winslow then entered into a history of the legislation on the subject of prison reform, commencing from 1775 to 1840, when the model prison at Pentonville was built, and 1848, when the Portland prison was erected. He thought that, as rate-payers, they ought to be acquainted with the cost per cell of some of the recently-built goals. Millbank cost half a million sterling—Pentonville cost £85,000—Pentonville prison cost £162 per cell; Chelmsford, £300; Reading, £200; Birmingham, £120; Leeds, £132; Aylesbury, £153; Winchester, £156; Wakefield, £125; York Castle, £1200. There were four different systems of prison discipline. 1. Old associated system. 2. Mixed or classified system. 3. Separate system. 4. Silent system. Before entering upon a discussion of the old associated system, Dr. Winslow referred to the law which was supposed to regulate the intercourse of individuals—viz., that when persons whose prominent actions have been developed by the same vital impulse are brought into union, the vital element of their respective actions will be increased in intensity by their intercourse. Under the associated system of treatment, the prisons were dens of corruption, iniquity and vice; schools of crime, instead of "hospitals for moral diseases." Every system of debauchery, roguery, and refined vice was practised. After entering at length into this part of the subject, and illustrating it by examples, Dr. Winslow observed, that if the law had a right to punish,

the state had no right to corrupt. Where unrestricted, unreserved association prevailed among prisoners, such corruption took place, not as an accidental occurrence, but as a positive, direct and necessary result. The associated system was said to be most appallingly destructive to the morals of the juvenile criminals. To meet this great evil a system of classification was adopted, but without success. Dr. Winslow entered at length into a history of the amelioration of the criminal code, and said unceasing efforts had been made to adapt the criminal code to the spirit of the age, by infusing into penal legislation benevolent and enlightened views of crime and prison discipline. All undue severity was declared to be in opposition to the spirit of the constitutional law. After citing Bracton, Blackstone, Beccaria and Buxton on this point, Dr. Winslow repudiated the idea of treating crime and criminals with undue leniency. The law should be merciful to the public as well as to the prisoner. The penal code should guarantee two things: the almost certain detection of crime, and the absolute and speedy certainty of its punishment. Punishment must be reformatory as well as penal. Mere naked correction hardens the heart, and does nothing to lessen the amount of crime, except by exciting a feeling of terror. The great object of penal legislation and punishment was the prevention of crime. Directly punishment ceased to be preventive and reformatory, it became vindictive and unjust. A class of prisoners was referred to who were hopelessly incorrigible and irreclaimable—their moral sense was utterly perverted and stultified—they constituted cases of *moral anæsthesia*. Such men exhibited only the animal instincts, recognized no distinction between right and wrong—*meum* and *tuum*. No amount of punishment, no degree of kindness, could make any impression on their heads or hearts. Dr. W. gave some account of the introduction of the separate, solitary, and silent systems in America, and afterwards in this country, France, Belgium, Prussia, &c.; and, after referring to the subject of prison discipline generally, gave, as the result of the most careful examination of official parliamentary returns, the following important facts in reference to the influence of prisons on mortality, and the general and specific generation of disease.

Prison Mortality.—The known registered prison mortality is about 19 in 1000 cases. A number of prisoners are yearly discharged, said to be under the influence of "incurable diseases," and calculating one third of these cases to die, the prison mortality will be at the rate of 23 4-5 per 1000.

General Mortality.—In the metropolis the annual mortality, between the ages of 15 and 17, is 15 3-10 per 1000. The mortality varies in different prisons. At Springfield, the mortality is 14 3-10 per 1000; whilst at Reading, it is estimated at 41 per 1000 cases. Taking the two principal prisons, the mortality is as follows—Pentonville, 13½ per 1000; Millbank, 18½ do.

Specific Mortality.—It has been computed that in the metropolis the mortality is—consumption, 4 3-10 per 1000; scrofulous diseases, 3-100 do. In prisons—consumption, 18½ per 1000; scrofulous diseases, 2 8-10 do. During the first thousand admissions into Pentonville prison, 11

died of consumption, and 14 prisoners were pardoned on that ground, which would make the ratio $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. It should be borne in mind that at Pentonville the prisoners are picked and selected, and that none are admitted to its walls who are not in the best mental and bodily health. If they are not in a condition to undergo the kind of treatment to which they are exposed, they are rejected by the medical officers. We now proceed to the subject of insanity.

In August, 1844,* the number of pauper lunatics and idiots in England was ascertained to be:—Males, 7870; females, 9485: total, 17,355. Of these, 390 (220 females, 170 males), or 2.25 per cent., were under 16 years of age, leaving 7770 males, 9265 females, above 16 years of age. Now, the estimated population of England at that time (July 1, 1844) was—males, 8,097,000; females, 8,478,000: total, 16,575,000; showing that, out of the entire male population, 0.98 in 1000 were insane or idiotic, and 1.1 out of the female population. But as insanity rarely commences before the epoch of puberty (16 years of age), we must inquire how many males and females in the population *after* that age are insane. Now, the proportion of males at 16 years and over, being 43.6 per cent. of male population, it appears that the male population of England in August, 1844, at 16 years and above, was 3,530,300. In August, 1844, it was ascertained that there were 7770 male pauper lunatics and idiots at 16 years and over, and the estimated male population at and above 16 years at that date was 3,530,000; it follows that out of the entire male population at and above 16 years, 2.2 of the laboring population are insane or idiots. To render this calculation more precise, it is desirable to ascertain how many are congenital idiots, and how many are demented and insane. The return (of 1844), which forms the basis of our calculation, makes the number of idiots larger than that of lunatics—male lunatics, 3902; male idiots, 3970: total, 7872. But this proportion appears to us so improbable, that as we have not at hand any means of rectifying it, we prefer leaving it as it is, and count the lunatics and idiots together. It is seen that we have calculated the proportion of male *pauper* lunatics and idiots, at 16 years and over, to the *entire* male population at that age; but it would be more precise to calculate the number from the *class* which furnishes it. Now, the *class* which peoples our asylums, hospitals and workhouses, with what are termed pauper (that is, poor) lunatics, is the working class, that class which depends for its daily subsistence on its daily labor, and which has no other resource in sickness and adversity than public charity. What proportion, then, does the male *working* population bear to the entire male population? The classification of employments in the census of 1841 enables us to answer this question satisfactorily, and shows that “the proportion of males not employed either in manual labor or some other species of active occupation, was 106 in 1000, or 10.6 per cent.” (Porter, p. 65.) On subtracting this number (10.6 per cent.) from 3,530,300 (3,530,300—374,211) we have (in round numbers) 3,156,000 as the adult male working population in

* This year was preferred, as it presented the most complete body of evidence on the subject.

1844. The number of adult pauper lunatics and idiots in England in 1844 being 7770 and the number of adult working men 3,156,000, it follows (as 3,156,000 : 7770 :: 1000 : 2.46) that 2.46 (say 2½) of adult working men in 1000 are insane, or idiots. The cases of mental disorder in the Pentonville prison, between January 1, 1843, and June 30, 1850, were 42 out of 3050 prisoners, being 13.7 per 1000, or 5.6 (5 3-5) greater than average; at which rate (were it general) we should have, in 1851, near upon 50,000 male pauper lunatics in England alone! It must be remembered that Pentonville excludes idiots and men known to have been insane, being picked men in the prime of life (20 to 40). In Portland prison the number of cases of insanity has been five in 1450 prisoners, or 3.46 (say 3½) per 1000, being one per 1000 above the average. In Millbank—34 in 18,590 adults, or 1.8 (1 4-5) per 1000; nine in 2024 juveniles, or 4.4 (4 2-5) per 1000. Among the troops on home service, the cases of insanity are stated by Dr. Balfour to be 0.73 (¾) per 1000 men. Dr. Winslow left it to those who advocated the separate, silent or solitary system of prison discipline, and who maintained that they were innocuous in their effects, both on the mind and the body, to explain the preceding rather startling and incontrovertible facts. He readily admitted that a large volume of evidence existed in favor of the separate system of treatment. Men of great ability, of undoubted veracity, and considerable experience, had investigated this question, and had reported strongly in its favor. They argued, that, under proper regulation, it did not deteriorate the general health, or generate specific diseases. But Dr. Winslow observed, that the statistical facts upon which the preceding calculation had been made were opposed to the general evidence adduced. There was undoubtedly more than one class of prisoners whom we might *à priori* suppose would be seriously influenced by the separate or cellular system of discipline. There were many prisoners whose health of body and mind would, almost as a matter of course, succumb under the terrible ordeal to which they were exposed. Again, many criminals entered the prison walls strongly predisposed to affections of the mind, being the children of criminals—the offspring of parents who have had crime, insanity and idiocy in their families for many generations. Upon another class, the rigid prison discipline, the regularity of life, the absence from excitement, the good food, the constant employment, and religious instruction, would have a tendency to calm, soothe and tranquillize the mind, and thus avert insanity. Although he (Dr. Winslow) was of opinion that the separate system was better than any other plan that had been suggested or carried into operation, he nevertheless considered that it required most careful and vigilant watching. He thought that some modification might be introduced which would obviate the mischief both to the mind and body which the separate mode of prison discipline was supposed, and with good reason, to give origin to.

[The discussion, by the members of the Society, which followed the reading of Dr. Winslow's paper, and which is reported in full in the London Lancet, whence the above is taken, is necessarily deferred to another number of the Journal.]

HOMŒOPATHY.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.—Continued from page 158.]

So far, then, as homœopathy may *merely* serve to displace a positive and greater evil, the *nostrum madness*, by the substitution of the lesser and negative evil of *Hahnemannic hallucination*, we might consistently wish it success. We go farther in our admissions, and avow our preference of its ministrations, to the prescriptions of the ignorant, reckless or dishonest allopathist. But these admissions are founded on the assumption that homœopathic agencies are a *positive* nullity. The question, therefore, recurs, by what method shall the people arrive at a safe conclusion, in settling the claims of the two opposing systems; or, rather, in choosing between them? It is obvious that the masses can never become adepts in medical science. They can neither appropriate the time, nor command the facilities, indispensable for such an end. Does it follow of necessity, therefore, that intelligence, discrimination, and judgment, are to have no agency in the selection of a medical adviser? We wish, for instance, to construct an edifice that shall combine the greatest durability and strength and extent, with the smallest amount of material. Must we be masters of all science that relates to the properties of matter, before we can safely choose our architect? The same rules which are appropriate for the investigation of questions of fact, and which are applied with success in courts of law, and by people of common intelligence, in the general economy of life, are equally available as guides, in the selection of our physician, or our architect. In the department of mechanics, innumerable instances are furnished of the plausibility of theories, and of the facilities by which seeming facts and proofs are produced in abundance, of their truths; and yet these theories have finally exploded, with all the fancied glory, or fancied riches, of their projectors! So, too, in the department of medicine, restless minds have ever been busy with schemes, rather than with nature; and anxious rather to bend facts to hypothesis, than to follow the rugged path of truth, and build hypothesis on the basis of facts. The intelligent reader of the history of medicine cannot fail to perceive that an essential or valuable principle, claiming, and long maintaining, ascendancy, either in therapeutics or pathology, has seldom if ever been thrown off at once, like a scintillation from the projector's mind; but has been a legitimate and slow, though sure growth and development, from well-observed, collated, and established facts.

The character, circumstances, and probable and even possible motives of the projector of a theory, though not of necessity proving or disproving its truth, should nevertheless modify the trust with which we admit its claims. John Brown, unquestionably a man of genius, and author of "*Elements of Medicine*," advanced and advocated a theory, comprising, no doubt, some "*elements*" of truth; and which he probably believed himself. His system of medicine has long since been generally abandoned by its disciples and advocates, as untenable—and yet, for a series of years, it numbered no inconsiderable portion of the profession, both in Europe and America, as its adherents. Brown was

notoriously a disappointed and bitter man ; and wrote his book in sheer revenge for fancied injury and neglect. No claim is here made to a knowledge of the personal history of Hahnemann ; but there is an undercurrent of bitterness and hostility, not merely against the principles of medicine, but against the profession itself, running through the pages of his great work, his vaunted "Organon," which forcibly reminds us of Brown, and which strongly indicates that he, too, had the "root" in his heart.

In relation to the *motive* which might have prompted Hahnemann to promulgate the doctrine of infinitesimalism in therapeutics ; if we may be allowed also to "theorize," we might suggest, and almost believe a hypothesis, which might redound no less to Hahnemann's honor, than even the final triumph of "*similia similibus curantur*." Whether traces of his opinions of the agency of that restorative principle, inherent in the animal economy, and called "*vis medicatrix nature*," are to be found in his book, we need not stop to ascertain. It is unimportant to our proposed "theory." But on the assumption that he *regarded* this medicative principle of nature as comprising all the agency that can be brought to bear effectively against disease, has he not chosen a method well adapted to advance his purpose ; effectually to teach, to illustrate, and to enforce his doctrine ? Let us, also, assume that benevolence was the prompting principle which guided him in his policy, and it would not be easy to disprove the wisdom of the plan, by which the practical efficiency of a true principle is secured to an unwilling world, through the medium of a false theory. From the days of Naaman the Syrian, to the times of Dr. Pusey, the world has been disposed to measure its confidence in means, by the amount of imposing circumstances which accompany them ; and whether they are comprised in the murderous apparatus which is to excoriate and flay the patient within an inch of his life, or in the vauntings of infinitesimal elaboration, they all serve to commend the leech to the heart and to the confidence of the patient. The unobtrusive efficacy of a principle, by the wisdom and mercy of God made innate and inherent with our physical nature, is not the "great thing" they look for. If this was Hahnemann's view of the matter, he may have done wisely and beneficently in resorting to infinitesimalism, with the added placebo of "*similia similibus curantur*," as the surest method by which to restore to the world the neglected and despised therapeutic agencies comprised in the unerring medicative power of nature itself.

But though we award much to the restorative power of nature, for its own occasions, we are not among the number who believe her always competent for her own necessities. She may be unerring, but not unfailing. We still adhere to the great system of principles, claiming to be truth, which, though still alloyed with much remaining error and obscurity, no less, perhaps, than other departments of science, has nevertheless been gradually and surely developed, through a long succession of centuries ; and by the labors of men of minds the most gifted, of the highest attainments in all science, and of acknowledged practical wisdom and benevolence. Shall all this be abandoned at once, for opinions

that originated but yesterday, and certainly can yet claim but small accessions from the ranks of thinking or scientific men ; opinions involving principles totally at variance with, and utterly subversive of all the conclusions of a philosophy which homœopathy itself cannot, and dare not, gainsay ; and which lead to an opposite conclusion, in all analogous departments of science ? What are the characteristics of the *class* of men who are distinguished as its advocates ? May they not fairly claim fellowship with those who have gained unenviable notoriety by theorizing on perpetual motion, communism, the perfectibility of man, and the thousand-and-one hallucinations that, of necessity, are exhaling in rapid succession, from the common mass of active mind, in its transition state from comparative ignorance to knowledge ; to a just appreciation of the great truths, constituting natural law ? These truths or principles must harmonize ; and the insuperable objection to the doctrines of Hahne-mann, is, their utter disagreement with these principles.

Happily for themselves, no less than for the profession, although the masses will never become adepts in abstruse science, nor deep in the questions involved in the philosophy of medicine ; nevertheless, they furnish instances, in abundance, of natural shrewdness, of unlettered good sense, before which pedantic nonsense melts at once into its elemental moonshine.

While we affect no respect for the absurdity and fallacy of homœopathy, we would do justice to the worth and intelligence of many who have become its converts, either as dispensers or patients. Towards these we would gladly extend all personal courtesy. But with perverse ignorance, or shallow conceit, the prowling jackals of homœopathy, or with the shrewd rascal who makes merchandize of it, we ask no terms but those of mutual abhorrence.

PRO RE NATA.

[WE give place to the following Report by particular request of the committee who drew it up—who claim, and not without reason, that as this Journal was the medium of publishing the report of the Massachusetts Medical Society in regard to its homœopathic members, so it should also contain the reply from those members, most of whom are constant readers of the Journal.—ED.]

REPORT OF A COMMITTEE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL SOCIETY.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

At a meeting of the Massachusetts Homœopathic Medical Society, held April 25th, 1851, the following report was received, adopted, and ordered to be published.]

HIRAM L. CHASE, Sec'y.

The very unusual course adopted by the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society, in giving such premature publicity to the report of their Committee, with the resolutions prepared for the future action of the Society, indicates a determination on their part to avail them-

selves of a long-sought opportunity, of publicly denouncing its homœopathic members. The proceeding seems to us to be an attempt, under a specious show of argument, to coerce the medical profession by restraints, which are entirely at variance with a truly scientific spirit of inquiry, and with the true purpose and objects of the Massachusetts Medical Society. Professing to devote themselves to the cause of truth by the investigation of facts, they endeavor to limit the range of those facts to their own sphere of vision; and by the agency and influence of their association to bring into disrepute all who are disposed to take a more extended and liberal view of the resources of nature in the cure of disease, and to affix the stigma of quackery on such as may dare to reject the stereotyped dogmas of the schools.

The evidence of this is found in the garbled statement of Dr. Colby's reason for asking a dismissal; which was not so much the change in his medical opinions, as the refusal of professional intercourse, and general discourteous deportment of the members of the Society in his vicinity on account of that change. The case constitutes an individual grievance, and furnishes in itself no satisfactory reason for contriving a summary mode of disposing of all similar cases by a standing rule, the operation of which would declare a constructive falsehood, viz., that Fellows coming under this rule were never members of the Society, or had been expelled from it for some act of fraud or contumacy; and would thus impose the penalty of indiscriminate disgrace upon a large and respectable portion of its Fellows, should similar unkind treatment compel them to request a dismissal.

We discover no reason why "the period has arrived when the Society should decide and make known what position it intends to take in relation to homœopathic practitioners," except the fact that the number of such practitioners is steadily increasing, as well from the ranks of that Society, as from the classes successively graduating from the allopathic and homœopathic schools of medicine; and that the homœopathic theory has indisputably attained to a rapidly increasing success, notwithstanding "the present period is an inauspicious one for the success of any medical theory, that does not rest on a substantial basis"; and that one of the Committee nine years since vouchsafed his oracular prediction of its then speedy downfall. Hence the necessity of an effort to arrest the progress of its benign and transcendent truths by the whole conservative force of the Society, not in the form of arguments appealing to the convictions, but of anathemas and resolves addressed to the moral courage of its adherents.

We grant the position of the Committee, and rejoice with them that "at no time in the history of the world has the science of medicine been cultivated on principles so philosophic, as at the present"; and we concede to them with pleasure, that "all the true votaries of our profession are earnestly seeking for truth alone; accumulating facts by patient and toilsome observations of disease and its effects, and drawing conclusions from them by the cautious process of inductive reasoning." Now we claim to be fellow-workers with them in this laudable cause, superadding, however, to those labors a "patient and toilsome observa-

tion" of the minute and recondite effects of remedies on the healthy, as well as the invalid, subject ; a field of observation, which has been hitherto deplorably neglected by our allopathic brethren, but into which homœopathic science has poured a flood of light, whose influence any careful reader may trace in almost every allopathic production of the day.

Allopathy is already indebted to homœopathy, though in its infancy, not only for much valuable knowledge of new properties and uses, as well as mischievous effects of old remedies, and a more accurate mode of investigating them ; but for the introduction of many new and well-proved articles to enrich their *materia medicas*. The Committee say, "If we have not yet gained more control of disease than our predecessors had, we better understand the power of remedies ; we know more than was formerly known, when it is best to withhold them altogether, relying on the powers of nature, and when they can be used advantageously in aid of those powers." And again, "It would, perhaps, be doing injustice to homœopathy if it was not admitted, that the promulgation of its doctrines had, at least indirectly, been of some service to the cause of medical science. It may have taught us to place more confidence in the curative powers of nature, and less in medicinal agents, in the management of disease, than we have hitherto done." Thus the "indirect service," which they grudgingly acknowledge to have derived from homœopathy, constitutes just all the improvement they profess to have accomplished in medical science.

The Committee felicitate themselves that in their school, which one of their writers has termed the "beautiful system," "all theories have been abandoned," and they have been employed in "drawing conclusions from facts by the cautious process of inductive reasoning." Yet thus far they do not claim to have deduced any fixed principle of action, or "gained more control of disease"; and according to their own showing the beautiful system reduces itself to a mere chaos of discordant elements. They are scandalized, however, that Hahnemann by the same process of induction should have deduced from well-observed and well-supported facts a simple yet comprehensive theory, proofs of which his followers are still constantly deducing from similar incontestible facts accumulating in their daily experience.

On the other hand, we would express to our allopathic brethren our conviction, that the cause of their failure in eliciting any grand law of remedial action, from their (we doubt not) most earnest and sincere search after truth, is, that all theories have not been *completely* abandoned, nor old prejudices *thoroughly* subverted ; that between the lingering claims of Stahl, Boerhaave and Hoffman, of Cullen and Brown—between the humoral, chemical and mechanical pathologies, solidism, animism, dynamism and vitalism, their minds are still fettered by a heterogeneous eclecticism, embracing many of the errors of all the old schools, with the consistency of none. And before induction can have full scope for its exercise, before facts can be fairly appreciated, these musty relics of by-gone doctrines must be swept away, the old pride of science must be humbled, and the conservative spirit brought to contemplate well-

attested facts, even though not strictly accordant with antiquated principles of medical philosophy and practice.

It was upon these terms, only, that homœopathy was vouchsafed to the highly-gifted mind of Hahnemann, and has been thus far transmitted to his followers. The apparent absurdity of the system weighed with us, we venture to say, as strongly, at first, as it now does with its opponents. There is nothing attractive in its first announcement to the mind. And had not Hahnemann, like his followers at the present day, been driven by the unsatisfactory results and the dangers of allopathic medication to seek for some new and safe principle of practice, and to seek it from facts, homœopathy, the only medical system which has ever resulted from inductive reasoning, would not now have dispensed its glorious light upon the world.

It is only by the rejection of this true spirit of induction, that our allopathic brethren are still groping amid the ruins of the old theories and doctrines, which they profess to have abandoned, and find no resting place. It is in the old spirit of pride and conservatism, that, entrenched behind chartered privileges and conventional forms, they assail with gross misrepresentations a system, of which it is but charity to assume that they know nothing; and that hence they "have neither time nor inclination to discuss its doctrines." It is in this inflated spirit of dictation, that they presume to say conclusively, that it is "enough for them to believe it untrue and unsafe." It was in this spirit that one of their number,* in a public address, had the effrontery to style as a "German charlatan" the profoundly learned and conscientious Hahnemann, whom the "great and good Hufeland," though always an allopathist, delighted to call his friend, and with whom through life he maintained a constant correspondence.

We are charged by the Committee with declaring the "commonly-received doctrines" of allopathy unsound, and its practice unsafe; as if such a declaration were chargeable upon us only. We are constrained here to inquire, what are the "commonly-received doctrines," to which they allude? We confess we know of no other, than a mass of unconnected, and mischievous dogmas, and think they might find it difficult to convince any one of their own members of the soundness of every such "commonly-received doctrine." And to prove their practice unsafe, we have only to quote, and that abundantly, from their own authors, among whom it is an axiom, that the occasionally fatal effect of a remedy is no valid argument against its employment.

If "at such a period as this the Committee cannot persuade themselves that the doctrines of homœopathy can have any very extensive or permanent influence," whence the necessity for their labored report, their gratuitous condemnation, and their offensive resolutions? If the "commonly-received doctrine" of Rush, with the almost universal acceptance of the Society, could not protract its influence beyond thirty years; and if at the expiration of that time, the equally popular doctrine of Broussais, similarly sustained by the Society, could not survive

* See Dr. Reynolds's annual discourse, May 26, 1841, and the vote of thanks of the Society "for his learned, interesting and candid discourse."

half of that period; surely the Committee need not fear that the homœopathic system, upon which the Society frowns, and which "is radically wrong, resting rather on gratuitous assertions, than well-founded facts," can ever subvert the "beautiful system." It is true, that since its birth it has witnessed successively the rise, the triumph and final extinction of both of these "commonly-received doctrines." It has struggled onward for nearly fifty years, against professional prejudice and pride, against oppression and persecution, against invective and sarcasm, against ridicule and contempt, through good report and evil report, until it has its numerous advocates in every civilized land, and in every class of society. We have no fears for its success. And we think it quite possible that the Massachusetts Medical Society, as in its estimate of the doctrines of Rush and Broussais, may be compelled, at no very distant day, again to doubt its own infallibility.

It is therefore resolved,

1st. That the members of the Massachusetts Homœopathic Medical Society were not cognizant of Dr. Colby's intention of applying for a dismission from the Massachusetts Medical Society; and though they deem it perfectly expedient under his peculiar circumstances, and sympathize with him in his position, they do not hold themselves responsible for his individual conclusions.

2d. That we protest against the prospective measure of stigmatizing all such homœopathic members, as may hereafter be driven by insult or persecution to seek release from the Society. And we hereby declare it to be a transcending of its chartered rights, and a violation of all conventional rules, to falsify its records by striking from the list of its Fellows the names of members, who have never offended against its laws.

3d. That the Legislature of 1781, when incorporating the Massachusetts Medical Society, contemplated the establishment of a "medical institution founded on liberal principles for the encouragement and promotion of the knowledge of the animal economy, and of the properties and effects of medicines"; and not for the perpetuation of any then "generally-received doctrines," nor the suppression of any new and valuable discoveries for the alleviation of human misery. The dynamic theory of Cullen was then culminating amid the fast-expiring glories of the animism of Stahl, the eclecticism of Boerhaave, and the rationalism of Hoffmann; and there was quite as good ground for its advocates to denounce the followers of Brown, who soon formed no contemptible body in the Society, as there now is for the contemplated persecution of the disciples of Hahnemann.

4th. That while we feel a high regard for the Massachusetts Medical Society, acknowledge the past efficiency of its labors in advancing medical science, and are still ready to devote ourselves to its honor and welfare, in every respect consistent with our experience and convictions, we do not acknowledge the pretension of a majority of its members, or any other clique, to dictate to us any particular mode of investigating the laws of the human system, or of administering to its diseases. And that while in the faithful discharge of our duty in combating disease by those agents, which we have found to be the most efficient, and conscien-

tiously believe to be the most safe and expeditious, we shall not be deterred by the threat of the Society, "to avoid giving us its sanction in the slightest degree." We neither ask nor need its sanction to the doctrines we have embraced; but we do ask, and of right claim, the courtesies due to honest and diligent inquirers after the truth, and suggest to them as a reciprocal principle, "*in certis unitas, in dubiis libertas, in omnibus charitas.*"

5th. That the proposed measure in their second resolution of ignoring the rank and merits of the Western College of Homœopathic Medicine in Ohio, and of the Homœopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania, is unworthy of the intelligence and self-respect of the Committee. The former is as amply provided with professors, and we believe of as great merit, as a large majority of the allopathic institutions of our country; while the latter certainly exceeds in the number, and, from personal acquaintance we can attest, fully equals in the talents and attainments of its officers, any of which the Union can boast. Their legal foundations are the same, their courses of instruction as full, and their educational requirements for a degree as great, as those in any allopathic institution; and superadded to these is the laborious attainment of the principles and practice of homœopathy. And we venture to predict, that the pupils from these institutions will eventually reflect as much honor upon, as they can derive from, any allopathic school which may acknowledge their qualifications.

6th. That we have scrupulously abstained from entering into any controversy, whereby acrimonious feelings might be engendered between us and our allopathic brethren; not because we feared for the strength or safety of our cause, but because it is in the spirit of conciliation that truth can be best discerned, and facts be most justly appreciated. That we are grieved to see names, which we have been accustomed to respect, appended to such an aggressive document; but we do feel a confidence, that when it shall be presented to the members of the Massachusetts Medical Society, their sense of honor and justice will insure its prompt rejection.

Respectfully submitted.

CHARLES WILD,
DAVID OSGOOD, } Committee.
SAMUEL GREGG, }

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, MAY 7, 1851.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Palestine.—Jerusalem has a rocky position on a side hill, facing the East, which allows the waste water to drain off readily; but it is wholly dependent on cisterns of rain water for its supply of this element. An aqueduct enters under Mount Zion, carrying a copious supply to the mosque of Omar, which, tradition says, is the identical stream that was introduced into the temple of Solomon, which occupied the very same site. I

examined the pool of Siloam; the bed of the brook Cedron, which is always dry, except in a rain storm; and the vast enclosures called the Upper and Lower pools of Gihon—the latter of which was filled, for the first time in many years, while I was there. On the whole, it is evident that cleanliness, in ancient as well as in modern times, could be maintained here, and that the eruptive diseases which are supposed to depend mainly on a neglected state of the dermoid texture, were not remarkably frequent in former times. Jerusalem is rather a cleanly place for an Arab town, but this chiefly is due to its side-hill position. The streets are narrow, and some of them as full of nuisances as certain places in the city of Rome. The houses are rather damp, being all of stone, with perfectly flat roofs, laid on arches, or the apex of the arch rises into a small dome. All the apartments are consequently small, owing to the necessity of keeping the arches within a diameter of not much over twenty feet, lest the weight of the arch should press out the walls which are the abutments that sustain the fabric. Poor ventilation is every where noticeable. In the rainy season the houses are cold and cheerless, and in the summer not much better, on account of the want of circulation of air. Although a small city in extent, large tracts once within the municipality being now excluded, its population is not equal to the accommodations. A prodigious concourse of pilgrims, of every tongue and nation, from the extreme northern borders of Russia, to the heated sands of Abyssinia, are perpetually coming and going, which gives the streets the air of life and considerable business. But the most profitable employment is the manufacture of rosaries from olive wood grown on sacred ground, the making of crosses, and carving mother of pearl with representations of the crucifixion, the last supper, the transfiguration, &c. Within the yard, in front of the door of the church of the Holy Sepulchre, Greeks, Copts, Armenians, and Roman Catholics, besides a host who speculate on the credulity of the pious visitors of the chapels farther on, are squatted in rows on the pavement, with piles of those kinds of nick nacks, in which a profitable trade is driven. The next business which gives employment to the permanent residents of Jerusalem, who have to make exertions for a livelihood, is selling provisions and dry goods. Several short streets are occupied as bazars. But by far the largest part of all who are connected with religious institutions, are pensioners on the bounty of people in other countries. On the whole, I have come to the conclusion that the chances for health and longevity are as favorable here, as in most Arabian settlements, and perhaps more so. Dr. Barclay, of Virginia, has just arrived, with a view of practising gratuitously among the poor. Dr. McGowan, an English gentleman connected with the mission to the Jews, is an excellent practitioner, in general esteem. There seems to be no surgery worth mentioning. If tumors are to be excised, perhaps they fall to the province of the barbers, as in Damascus. There they cut and slash away apparently at a fearful rate, but without doing much harm. If a limb is fractured, why it gets along somehow, without surgical assistance beyond that which in such an emergency would suggest itself to any common mind. Where there are no operative surgeons, there is no surgery, is a trite remark—which is of a piece with the proverb, that “lawyers make strife.” Of these matters, however, my friends, Drs. Spaulding and Deforest, will give a full account, I trust.

Morals are certainly at low-water mark in every country where Mahomedanism is in the ascendant; consequently in Palestine and throughout Syria, the sins most abhorrent and abominable are as common as the in-

instincts of its followers are depraved and beastly. I have not a face to describe all the facts presented to me. It is better that the wickedness of these corrupt people, especially the Turks, should remain unknown to all but travellers. No hope or expectation should for a moment be indulged, that they are to be reached through the conscience or heart, and that they are yet to become Christians. I wish it might be brought about; but Christianity offers nothing acceptable to the depraved conquerors of Syria. The Canaanites were crushed on account of their idolatries, and the cities of the plain destroyed by fire from heaven for the very abominations now as common here and notorious as possible; and it is certain, that till the present inhabitants are rooted out of the land, and a new race of men introduced in their stead, the gospel will only be precious with a few, who can have little influence in changing the manners and customs of the whole.

Although the stupendous ruins of Baalbec have been explored, and, in short, all worth seeing, in Syria, has been seen, there are countries beyond equally attractive. The day after my departure from Damascus, a caravan of eight hundred camels was to start for Bagdad. My desire to improve an opportunity so safe for going into Persia, was strong indeed; but it would have been impossible to send so far as England, where my funds are lodged, in season to obtain the means of meeting the expense, and consequently the idea of pressing onward still further was reluctantly given up. It is my intention, hereafter, should life be spared, to extend these researches vastly beyond the countries already visited.

Within two weeks from this date, should no untoward circumstance occur, I expect to be on the borders of Turkey. When at Constantinople, a peep must be made at the Black Sea, and a steamer will then be taken for Athens. From thence it is my intention to sail for Trieste, and then proceed to Vienna, Berlin, and by way of Ostend reach London as speedily as possible.

Dr. Horner's Valedictory.—We have derived much pleasure from reading Professor W. E. Horner's valedictory address to the graduating class of the University of Pennsylvania. It is in a style well calculated for a discourse on such an occasion, and what might have been expected from the learned doctor. There is much in it we should be pleased to lay before our readers, and particularly that portion having reference to the juniors in the profession; but we have room only for the following extract. "Indolence," says Dr. H., "in the early years of professional life, is by all means to be avoided; a pre-occupation of the public attention by seniors, and by men of acknowledged skill, will necessarily leave the young practitioner in obscurity, and without much reward. Many men are irrevocably discouraged by their deep sense of these disadvantages, and as they cannot get an *immediate* reward, have not the force of character to labor for the emoluments which come in only after the expiration of ten or fifteen years."

University of Maryland.—The annual circular of the Medical Department of the University of Maryland, for the session of 1851-2, has been sent us. It is a well-written document, ably and clearly setting forth the true principles of a systematic medical education. We perfectly agree with Dr. Roby, the author of this manifesto, as to the value of clinical study and instruction, and especially in regard to the manner in which it

should be taught in our medical schools. It is very true that the mere rehearsal to a medical class, that "a child has bronchitis:" that this "generally arises from congestion of the lungs," which is relieved by secretion, and being "preceded by measles there is probably inflammatory action," and that having been treated with small doses of ipecacuanha, these are to be continued, with "a diet of bread and milk, or cream and a little rice flour, the bowels to be kept open with a teaspoonful of castor oil, if necessary," cannot be regarded as the best way to impart *practical* clinical instruction; yet it is not an uncommon method of *teaching* in many hospitals and infirmaries. Clinical lecturers should certainly endeavor to make their subjects as clear and comprehensive as possible to the student, who in his initiatory studies has enough else to confuse him.

Wilson's Dissector.—"The Dissector; or, Practical and Surgical Anatomy. By Erasmus Wilson, author of a system of Human Anatomy, &c. Edited by Paul B. Goddard, M.D. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea, publishers, 1861." The reputation of Erasmus Wilson as a thorough anatomist and a correct writer on the science of human anatomy, was fully established from the first appearance of his "Anatomist's Vade Mecum." The Dissector, by the same author, has been considered one of the best handbooks for the student of practical anatomy extant, and we really know of none that we should prefer to it were its illustrations better executed. The descriptive part is well arranged, and we think the improvements made by Dr. Goddard should commend it to the favorable consideration of the American medical student. It can be had of Ticknor & Co., Boston.

Cooper on Dislocations and Fractures.—This is a new American edition, from the press of Blanchard & Lea, of that most excellent and practical treatise on dislocations and fractures of the joints, by Sir Astley Cooper. We presume it is unnecessary to do more than to announce a publication bearing his name, in order to have it sought for by the profession. The high estimation in which this treatise is held by the profession in this country, may be inferred from the fact of its being published in full, a few years since, by order of the Massachusetts Medical Society, for the use of its fellows. Additionally interesting is the present edition made, by the valuable notes of our distinguished townsman, Dr. John C. Warren, and a brief memoir of Sir Astley's life, by the American editor. For sale at Ticknor & Co.'s.

"*Comparative Intellectual Standing of the Medical Profession*"—Prof. Peaslee's *Introductory*.—The introductory to the spring course of lectures in the Medical Department of Bowdoin College, Maine, by E. R. Peaslee, M.D., Professor of Anatomy and Surgery, has been received. It is very ably written, indicating a mind richly cultivated, and one familiar with history and ancient lore. Such addresses are well calculated to create a love for study, and otherwise stimulate the medical student in his onward course.

Local Treatment for Ascarides.—Perhaps there is nothing more troublesome to young children, or which causes more sleepless nights to them, as well as their parents, than the *bites* of the little pin worm. The remedies to cure, kill, and expel these parasites, are as numerous as the days in a

Medical Intelligence.

year, but for the most part they are quite ineffectual. In the annoyance from the migrating propensities of these worms is intolerable, and oftentimes the cause of convulsions. In the rectum at night, and also the parts adjacent to be bathed with the same decoction, an effectual remedy, for one or two nights at least; and if followed up frequently, it will oftentimes entirely rid the child of all such troubles.

Moral Insanity.—From the last report of Dr. Benedict, of the State Lunatic Asylum of New York, which was noticed a few weeks since in the Journal, we copy the following remarks on a species of insanity which deserves increased attention.

"Of moral, or perhaps more correctly *immoral* insanity, nine cases have been under our care, two of whom have been admitted within the last year. These cases present the various forms of derangement, from the mere rascally little sinner (two were lads) up to the most aggravated form of the genuine disease. We have an idea that a remedy not much known to modern science, but in vogue in the days of Solomon, commenced early and faithfully persevered with, would have been eminently successful in preventing the development of the disease, or at least arrested its progress before its full establishment. One of our patients is the exact counterpart, if not the identical fellow, seen by Mr. George Combe, in the Dublin Lunatic Asylum, who exhibits a total want of moral feeling and principle, yet possesses intelligence, ingenuity and plausibility. He has been a scourge to his family from childhood, was sent to the army to get rid of him, from which he was turned out as an incorrigible villain, always fighting and getting drunk, for which he was repeatedly flogged. By seclusion he becomes so savage as to render the task of entering his room and supplying his wants by no means enviable, and when at large he often assaults those around him. His chief enjoyments are eating and fighting, and although he is constantly endeavoring to "get out of these barracks," he seems to have no particular object in view but the more free indulgence of these propensities. In all but this one case, moral treatment alone has accomplished our object, but on him little moral influence can be exerted. By the aid of nauseating remedies, as ipecacuanha and antimony, and purgatives, compound powder of jalap, senna and salts, &c., frequently administered, we are enabled in some degree to control him. Blisters and setons to the back of his neck are now being tried.—Under this head we include one case of pyromania, an inoffensive, intelligent young man who was arrested for firing buildings, and acquitted on the plea of insanity."

Interesting and Important Discovery.—We find in the Atlas, of this city, the following account of a discovery by one of our most distinguished chemists and geologists :—"At a recent meeting of the Natural History Society of this city, Dr. Charles T. Jackson mentioned the discovery of a new and valuable mineral, phosphate of lime, occurring in large quantities in Hurdstown, near the line of the Morris canal, in New Jersey, and, since its discovery in that place, in even larger quantities at Crown Point, N. Y., on Lake Champlain. For agricultural purposes, in manuring and enriching lands, this substance is of great value, being essentially the same as bone dust, the virtues of which are well known. The quantity in which

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it is found in both these places, and the probability that it will be also found in other localities, promise that an abundant supply will render it as cheap, as it is valuable and important. Since the announcement of the discovery of this mineral was made, Dr. Jackson has demonstrated its value for other purposes, even more important. By a simple, easy and cheap process, he has discovered the means of separating the lime and other ingredients from the phosphoric acid, and has thus extracted both this substance, as well as phosphorus, from the rock. This is the first time, we believe, that phosphorus has ever been obtained from mineral substances. Formerly this article could only be procured by a slow, tedious, expensive, and disgusting process from animal substances. The discovery of making it from bones was an important one, facilitating its manufacture, and rendering the article much cheaper. This discovery led to others, among which was its use and value in printing and dyeing calicoes, &c., to which it is now extensively applied, and manufactured for that purpose. The discovery that it can be made with less expense, and in much greater quantities, from a mineral found in abundance, in at least two accessible localities, will probably lead to another great change in the mode of its manufacture, and lessen the cost of the article. In this way both the farmer and the manufacturer may derive important benefits from the discovery of this valuable mineral, and the gentleman to whose scientific knowledge both its discovery and its important applications are due, may again be regarded as a great public benefactor. The mineral from Hurdstown contains 92 4-10 per cent. of pure phosphate of lime, and yields 46½ per cent. of phosphoric acid, and 20 per cent. of phosphorus. Besides its use in dyeing, and the manufacture of matches, phosphorus is also esteemed of value in medicine."

Anniversary Meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society.—The annual meeting of the State Medical Society takes place this year at Worcester, instead of Boston as heretofore. It will be held on the last Wednesday of the present month, we presume at 10 o'clock A. M., and it is probable that, as formerly, the Address, which is to be by Dr. Storer of this city, will be delivered at 1 o'clock P. M. This notice is unofficial, but we have taken the liberty to publish it for the benefit of our readers, some of whom are known to have been absent from the anniversary for the last two years solely on account of not being notified of the day of meeting. As previously mentioned in the Journal, arrangements have been made with the Worcester Railroad Company to convey members from Boston at a reduced rate—\$1.15 to go and return—provided 100 or more tickets are taken. There is little doubt that the requisite number will signify their intention to go. The regular trains will leave this city at 7½ and also at 8 o'clock in the morning. Should an express train be necessary, probably it will leave at the last named hour, and tickets will be good in *that train only*. If the regular trains are sufficient, members may avail themselves of any of them, on Tuesday or Wednesday to go, and on Wednesday or Thursday to return.

American Medical Association.—We exceedingly regret that circumstances should have occurred, to prevent us from attending the Convention of the American Medical Association at Charleston, S. C., which commenced its session yesterday. Although we had anticipated much pleasure in meeting our professional friends from all parts of the Union, and joining

with them in the good work which this Association has begun, we are somewhat reconciled in remaining at home, by knowing that others from this section have gone, who will more ably represent the interest of the profession in these parts. Delegates from Boston who are in attendance, so far as we have been able to learn, are Drs. J. C. Warren, George Hayward, Z. B. Adams, D. H. Storer, Samuel Parkman, and G. H. Gay.

An unjust Verdict and Sentence.—The head surgeon of a French lunatic asylum has been condemned to 15 days imprisonment for "causing the death of a patient by laudanum in a lavement." He was condemned upon the evidence of two *veterinary* surgeons, which was counter to the evidence of five of the most celebrated physicians in France.

Medical Miscellany.—The degree of Doctor in Medicine was conferred on 60 gentlemen who had passed the proper examination at the last commencement of the Cleveland (Ohio) Medical College.—Dr. Peirson, of Salem, was, we understand, badly injured recently by falling from the cars of the Eastern Railroad, at the depot.—Mention is made in the papers of a lady in Madison, Ind., lately coughing up a large horse-fly from the wind-pipe, which was probably lodged there last summer, though in what manner is not known. She immediately obtained relief from a most distressing cough and other painful and threatening symptoms.—Dr. E. Morey, of Westfield, N. Y., came to a terrible death, having been thrown from the seat of his gig, caught by the foot in a singular manner, and thus dragged seven miles by his runaway horse over a very rough road.—The State of Pennsylvania has appropriated \$32,000 for the completion of a geological survey of the State.—The London correspondent of the National Intelligence says that, by a well arranged plan, the census of the population, &c., of Great Britain was taken by returns made to the proper authorities on the 1st instant—the *whole business being done in that single day!*—An extraordinary mortality from hooping cough formerly was common in the South Sea Islands. Its intensity has, however, been materially modified by vaccination, which was also the case in South America.—Francis C. Nægele, the celebrated obstetrician, lately died at Heidelberg, in the 72d year of his age.—Chloroform has been administered in 9000 cases at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, without *one* unpleasant occurrence taking place from its use.—All doubt is removed as to the opening of the Great Exhibition in London on the day originally named, the first of May.—An act for the registration of births, marriages and deaths, has been passed by the Legislature of Pennsylvania.

DIED.—At Stoughton, 30th ult., Charles F. Wyman, M.D.—In New York, of disease of the heart, Dr. A. D. Gordon, aged 38 years.—At Washington, D. C., Dr. Charles B. Hamilton, aged 60, formerly Surgeon in the U. S. Navy.—In Michigan, March 17, Dr. Linus Stevens, aged 66, formerly of Connecticut.

Deaths in Boston—for the week ending Saturday noon, May 3d, 76.—Males, 30—females, 46. Accidental, 2—Inflammation of bowels, 2—disease of brain, 1—consumption, 15—convulsions, 4—croup, 2—diarrhoea, 1—dropsy of the brain, 4—drowned, 1—erysipelas, 2—exhaustion, 1—fracture of skull, 1—typhus fever, 4—lung fever, 1—brain fever, 1—gastritis, 1—hooping cough, 1—disease of heart, 3—intemperance, 2—infantile, 4—inflammation, 1—Inflammation of lungs, 3—congestion of lungs, 1—marasmus, 1—measles, 4—old age, 5—post-peral, 1—smallpox, 2.

Under 5 years, 27—between 5 and 20 years, 15—between 20 and 40 years, 18—between 40 and 60 years, 10—over 60 years, 6. Americans, 31; foreigners and children of foreigners, 45.

The above includes 14 deaths at the City Institutions.

Legitimate Fruits of Fanaticism.—Miss Martineau, whose advocacy of homœopathy, mesmerism, and other kindred follies, has long been so notorious, now appears as the champion of the grossest and most undisguised materialism. In a late publication styled "Letters on the Laws of Man's Nature and Development, by Henry George Atkinson, F. G. S., and Harriet Martineau," the lady's adoption of all the worn-out trash of atheism is formally announced, as if to show the world how far the extremes of infidelity and credulity are compatible. An enthusiastic believer in homœopathy and the most ridiculous excesses of mesmerism, she entirely rejects the notion of a Great First Cause, a Providential Guidance, and, in short, of a spiritual life, and of all human responsibility and accountability. This is another proof, as has been well observed, that "the feebleness of mind which leads to the rejection of great truths, is precisely that which tends to the reception of as great errors."—*Medical Examiner.*

Prof. Ware's Introductory Lecture.—Dr. Ware's Lecture at the Massachusetts Medical College, last autumn, which was published in this Journal and afterwards issued in a pamphlet, has been very favorably noticed in our exchanges, and copious extracts made from it. The following pithy notice is from the American Journal of Dental Science.

"This is admirable. If it did not savor of presumption, we would say Dr. Ware is a man after our own heart. His views are our views: they have always been our views; but we were beginning to fear that we were alone in our thinking. Suddenly and unexpectedly we open an unpretending pamphlet, and there stand out our own thoughts, gracefully adorned, strong, robust, majestic. There they are—what we have often thought, but ne'er so well expressed; and right glad we are to see them.

"It is too often overlooked that the final purpose of all medical study is practice.' Verily it is. 'A man may know a vast deal of the profession, and yet be a very poor practitioner.' Yes, indeed, he may know a great deal of what is supposed to be science, and somewhat too of real knowledge, and very little about sick people—and as long as the microscope receives more attention than the lancet, the evil will increase upon us.

"There is 'a distinction between a pathological and a therapeutic diagnosis.' A distinction! yes, a distinction so wide as to create an entire difference. The one is mainly a matter of curiosity; the other, a matter of life and death. The one can be taught by professors who never had practice, and never knew how to practise; the other, by men who can cure disease. But the evil day is upon us. Woe to us that we dwell in Meshech! Cry out, Dr. Ware, and spare not! There is need of men of common sense and uncommon nerve about this time."

Alleged Manslaughter by procuring Abortion.—Dr. William Clark, Botanic Physician of Boston, was last week brought before the Police Court, on a charge of manslaughter, by procuring abortion. The subject was Mrs. Rosanna Leavitt. Coroner Pratt held an inquest on her body for two or three days. The result was the arrest of Dr. Clark. Dr. C. was called to visit Mrs. Leavitt, on Friday, the 25th ult., at which time it is alleged he commenced the treatment which ended in her death on Monday following. It is said that her body exhibits signs of great violence. The examination was postponed till the 14th of May. He was put under \$8000 bonds, and obtained bail.